

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following new paragraph at page 1, immediately after the title:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/778,545, filed January 3, 1997, which claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) based on U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/011,136, filed January 4, 1996.

Please replace the paragraph spanning pages 5-6 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 1 depicts the cDNA sequence (SEQ ID NO:1) and corresponding deduced amino acid sequence of TGF α -HIII (SEQ ID NO:2). The standard one letter abbreviations for amino acids are used. The putative signal sequence has been underlined.

Please replace the first full paragraph at page 6 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 2 is an illustration of comparative amino acid sequence homology between TGF α -HIII (top line) and human TGF α -HI (a portion of TGF α -HIII (bottom line; amino acids 126-177 of SEQ ID NO:2) and a portion of human TGF α (top line)). Darkened amino acids denote the conserved EGF motif domain which is shown to be conserved in the polypeptide of the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph spanning pages 6-7 with the following amended paragraph:

The full-length polypeptide of the present invention as set forth in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:2) has a putative signal sequence which comprises amino acid 1 through amino acid 25 of Figure 1 (amino acid -25 through amino acid -1 of SEQ ID NO:2) which aids in secretion of the polypeptide from the cell. One embodiment is a polypeptide comprising amino acid 1 to amino acid 204 of SEQ ID NO:2. Amino acid 126 through amino acid 177 of SEQ ID NO:2 represent the active site of the protein of the present invention. Further, amino acid 178 through amino acid 204 represents a putative transmembrane portion which is thought to be necessary to direct the polypeptide to particular target locations for the carrying out of biological functions as hereinafter described. The transmembrane portion may also be cleaved from the polypeptide such that the putative soluble portion of the polypeptide of the present invention comprises amino acid 1 through amino acid 177 of SEQ ID NO:2. The protein exhibits the highest degree of homology to TGF α .

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 3, which starts with "In accordance with", with the following amended paragraph:

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention there are provided isolated polynucleotides encoding a mature polypeptide expressed by the DNA contained in ATCC Deposit No. 97342, deposited with the American Type Culture Collection, ~~12301 Park Lawn Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20852, USA (ATCC), 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, Virginia 20110-2209~~, on November 20, 1995. The deposited material is a [?? ~~pBluescript bluescript~~ ??] plasmid (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA) that contains the full-length TGF α -HIII cDNA. The deposit has been made under the terms of the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for purposes of Patent Procedure. The strain will be irrevocably and without restriction or condition released to the public upon the issuance of a patent ~~except for those restrictions permitted to enforce such a patent~~. These deposits are provided merely as convenience to those of skill in the art and are not an admission that a deposit is required under 35 U.S.C. §112. The sequence of the polynucleotides contained in the deposited materials, as well as the amino acid sequence of the polypeptides encoded thereby, are controlling in the event of any conflict with any description of sequences herein. A license may be required to make, use or sell the deposited materials, and no such license is hereby granted. References to "polynucleotides" throughout this specification includes the DNA of the deposit referred to above.